Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Jeffrey Willert, Belvidere, South Dakota, is the 23-year-old son of Jim and Debra Willert of Belvidere, South Dakota, and Renee Hanig of Pukwana, South Dakota, and grandson of Oliver and Shirley Willert of Kadoka, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Jeffrey began his rodeo career during his years while a student at Kadoka High School as a member of their rodeo club, and continued to compete while attending Oklahoma State Panhandle University at Goodwill, Oklahoma; and,

Whereas, In 2002, Jeffrey received his Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) card; and,

Whereas, In 2003, Jeffrey was seriously injured while participating in a rodeo at Reno, Nevada, where he was blinded in his left eye, but has learned to compensate well and overcome this disability; and,

Whereas, Jeffrey has successfully competed in the 2005 National Finals Rodeo held at Las Vegas, Nevada, in early December and earned $118,629 in ten rounds of competition, which, added to his yearly earnings, has earned him the record for the most money won in PRCA Saddle Bronc for one season—a total of $278,168; and,

Whereas, Jeffrey's successful 10 rounds of saddle bronc competition has also allowed him to capture the 2005 World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider title; and,

Whereas, South Dakota citizens are extremely proud to have this fine young man, humble as he is, represent this great state and bring fame to us through his accomplishments as a professional cowboy; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper for the Governor of South Dakota to recognize Jeffrey for his accomplishments and wish him well going forward:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim December 19, 2005, as

JEFFREY WILLERT DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State